



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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MAY 11 2009

Ref: 8EPR-SR

Mr. Jeff Rawson
Associate State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155

Dear Mr. Rawson:

Thank you for making the time to talk to us on March 25, 2009. We very much appreciate your willingness to share information regarding the potential sale of property you own within the Silver Maple Claims Site in Park City, Utah to United Park City Mines, one of the identified potentially responsible parties within the watershed. It is helpful for EPA to have a sense of the logistics and timing of this property transfer as the Region considers potential cleanup response actions throughout the Silver Creek watershed.

As promised during our call, enclosed are excerpts of two BLM publications that were excellent in providing data regarding contamination within the Silver Maple Claims Site. EPA shares the concerns identified by BLM and would like to work together as we move forward. We understand that any projections regarding a property transfer are tentative, but nonetheless EPA would welcome any available updates as the projected transfer date approaches.

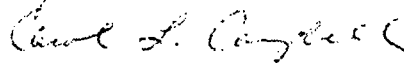
EPA's response actions in other areas of the watershed have created a potential need for additional areas to dispose of excavated materials. We request your assistance in finding an additional repository. An additional repository site would be a substantial contribution to overall Site cleanup and would provide significant assistance to remedial actions throughout the watershed.

The other item we discussed that would be of great value would be to take the offered "guided tour" of BLM properties within the general area. During our call, BLM provided a contact, Mike Nelson, who could help plan an area tour. In hopes of coordinating with an upcoming Site visit, we would like to call Mr. Nelson within the next couple weeks. Also, of course, please feel

free to call Kathryn Hernandez, Remedial Project Manager, at (303) 312-6101 in the interim to talk about this or any other matter.

Thank you again for your time and all of your help. We look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Campbell
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Enclosure

cc: Kent Hoffman - Deputy State Director Lands & Minerals
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84119

Glenn Carpenter - West Desert District Manager
2370 South 2300 West
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Excerpt 1 dated April 25, 2005, is entitled "Removal Site Inspection for the Silver Maples Claims Site."

Silver Maple Claims (SMC) site is located approximately 0.8 miles east of Park City, Utah in lands administered by the BLM Salt Lake Field Office. The SMC site consists of tailings from inactive, historic high grade silver milling and reprocessing operations since the 1880s. The source of the tailings at this location include intentional sluicing from upstream milling operations on Silver Creek, stream transport, and hauling and dumping of tailings from upstream sources. From 1906 – 1926 E.J. Begg constructed a mill on the SMC site to reprocess tailings. The site covers approximately 13 acres situated on two inactive unpatented placer mining claims and the tailings lie mostly submerged beneath a 7.5-acre wetland jurisdictional wetland. Tailings occur throughout the site and are up to 11 feet in thickness. Sample results from various investigations indicate concentrations of lead ranging from 4,000 – 61,800 ppm, with the current cleanup target in the watershed of 310 ppm for sediment and 500 ppm for soils. Arsenic, copper, zinc and mercury are also chemicals of concern at this site.

Excerpt 2 dated February 28, 2003, is the "Silver Maple Wetland Functional Assessment."

The U.S. Geological Survey performed a tracer injection study with synoptic sampling in 2002 to identify the sources of metals loading to Silver Creek. Silver Maple Claims supplies about 17% of the loading to the reach. Approximately 3800 cubic yards of on-site, exposed, oxidized tailings are believed to contribute most of the on-site metals loading. The overall report indicated that the SMC itself serves as a source and a sink for metals loading. This is consistent with the surface tailings hotspot of metals contamination potentially associated with the former Beggs Mill. There is an estimated 142,000 – 177,000 cubic yards of potentially less reactive, buried tailings on the site. High concentrations of metals in exposed tailings were found to be a threat to human and ecological receptors, and contribute to metals loadings in Silver Creek.

